



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/887,413	06/21/2001	Yi-Min Wang	MS1-0752US	8942

22801 7590 11/10/2011
LEE & HAYES, PLLC
601 W. RIVERSIDE AVENUE
SUITE 1400
SPOKANE, WA 99201

EXAMINER

AL HASHEMI, SANA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2156

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

11/10/2011

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

lhptoms@leehayes.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/887,413	Applicant(s) WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner SANA AL HASHEMI	Art Unit 2156	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2011.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 16-23, 27-29, 34-38 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 10-15, 24-26, 30-33 and 39-41 is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is issued in response to amendment filed 9/14/2011.

Claims 142 were amended. No Claims were added and none were canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-9, 16-23, 27-29, 34-38, and 42 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ward et al. (Ward hereinafter) US Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0030333 filed Aug. 8, 2005.

Regarding Claims 1, 16, 28, and 35 Ward discloses a method comprising:

receiving at a centralized alert center, a user-submitted indication of an alert source from which a user desires to receive alerts, wherein (Fig. 1c, Ward):

the centralized alert center is not directly associated with the alert source (Fig. 1c, wherein the Area of uncertainty corresponds to "not directly" Ward); and

the alert source is configured to enable users to subscribe directly to the alert source (Fig. 2, element 215, Ward);

Art Unit: 2156

subscribing, by the centralized alert center, on behalf of the user, to the alert source, such that alerts for the user are sent by the alert source to the centralized alert center rather than to the user (Fig. 3B, element 355, Ward);

receiving at the centralized alert center, on behalf of the user, an alert for the user, and on behalf of the user, from the alert source; mapping the alert that was received to a delivery mode; and based on the mapping, forwarding the same alert that was received to the user according to the delivery mode (Fig. 3B, element 355-360, Ward).

Regarding Claim 2, and 17, Ward discloses a method wherein mapping the alert that was received to a delivery mode comprises mapping the alert according to the alert source (Fig. 3B, element 357, Ward).

Regarding Claims 3, and 18, Ward discloses a method wherein mapping the alert that was received to the delivery mode comprises mapping the alert according to content of the alert (Fig. 3B, element 354, Ward).

Regarding Claim 4, Ward discloses a method wherein the delivery mode specifies a delivery method used to forward the same alert that was received to the user, and wherein forwarding the same alert that was received to the user according to the delivery mode comprises transmitting the same alert that was received to the user via the delivery method indicated in the delivery mode (Fig. 3D, element 375, Ward).

Regarding Claim 5, Ward discloses a method wherein the delivery mode specifies a delivery action that indicates a delivery method to be used to forward the same alert that was received and whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, and the method

Art Unit: 2156

further comprises waiting for an acknowledgement to the alert if the delivery mode indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert should be is expected (Fig. 4, element 450, Ward).

Regarding Claim 6, Ward discloses a method wherein the delivery action specifies a time period to wait for an acknowledgement if an acknowledgement to the alert is expected, and wherein the waiting further comprises waiting the specified time period for an acknowledgement to the alert (Fig. 5C, elements 586, and 589, wherein the time is tied to the wireless network , Ward).

Regarding Claims 7, 19, 25, and 38 Ward discloses a method wherein:

the delivery mode specifies a first delivery method used to forward the same alert that was received; the delivery mode specifies a second delivery method used to forward the same alert that as received; the second delivery method is different than the first delivery method (Fig. 5C, element 697, and 594, Ward); and

forwarding the same alert that was received comprises transmitting the same alert that was received to the user via the first delivery method and the second delivery method as indicated by the delivery mode (Fig. 5C, element 598, Ward).

Regarding Claim 8, Ward discloses a method wherein mapping the alert that was received to a delivery mode comprises:

defining one or more categories of alerts (Fig. 6, element 615, Ward);

assigning a delivery mode to each category (Fig. 6, element 630, Ward); and

categorizing the alert, thereby mapping the alert to the delivery mode of the category (Fig. 6, element 645 wherein the filter corresponds to categorizing, Ward).

Art Unit: 2156

Regarding Claim 9, Ward discloses a method wherein mapping the alert that was received to a delivery mode further comprising assigning a priority to each category, and wherein assigning a delivery mode to each category comprises assigning a delivery mode to a category based on the priority assigned to the category (Fig. 8F, element 846, wherein the high accuracy corresponds to the high priority, Ward).

Regarding Claim 20, Ward discloses a method centralized alert delivery system wherein the delivery method is chosen from a group of delivery methods consisting of: e-mail, instant messaging, SMS (short message service) messaging (Fig. 4, element 420, Ward).

Regarding Claim 21, Ward discloses a centralized alert delivery system wherein the delivery mode comprises one or more delivery blocks, each delivery block specifying one or more delivery actions, each delivery action specifying (Fig. 4, element 420, Ward): a delivery method by which an alert associated with the delivery mode is delivered (Fig. 4, element 440, Ward); whether an acknowledgement to the alert is expected; and if an acknowledgement to the alert is expected, a time to wait for the acknowledgement (Fig. 4, element 450, Ward).

Regarding Claim 22, Ward discloses a centralized alert delivery system wherein the delivery mode comprises one or more delivery blocks, each delivery block specifying one or more delivery actions, each delivery action specifying a delivery method by which the associated alert is delivered and whether an acknowledgement to the transmitted alert is expected (Fig. 4, element 425, Ward).

Regarding Claim 23, Ward discloses a centralized alert delivery system wherein each delivery action that indicates an acknowledgement is expected further specifies a time to wait for the acknowledgement (Fig. 3E, element 387, Ward).

Art Unit: 2156

Regarding Claims 27, and 34, Ward discloses a centralized alert delivery system further comprising:

a categories module that identifies categories into which an alert alerts are categorized, wherein each category has an associated delivery mode (Fig. 8C, element 828, Ward); and

the mapping module is further configured to categorize the alert into a category identified in the categories module thereby associating the alert with the delivery mode of the category (Fig. 8C, element 832, Ward).

Regarding Claims 29, and 42, Ward discloses a computer system wherein the alert center is further configured to monitor for an acknowledgement that the alert was successfully delivered (Fig. 3E, element 387, Ward).

Regarding Claim 30, Ward discloses computer storage media wherein determining the delivery mode comprises:

determining the alert source from which the alert originated; identifying a category associated with the alert source (Fig. 3E, element 382, Ward); and identifying a delivery mode associated with the category (Fig. 3E, element 388, Ward).

Regarding Claim 37, Ward discloses a computer storage media wherein transmitting the alert according to the delivery mode comprises:

identifying a delivery action associated with the delivery mode (Fig. 3E, element 391, Ward); and transmitting the alert according to the delivery action (Fig. 3E, element 387, Ward).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-15, 24, 26, 30-33, 39-41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding Claims 10-15, 24-26, 30-33, and 39-41, the applied art fail to disclose the claimed limitations of mapping the alert that was received to a primary delivery block specifying a first delivery action that specifies a first delivery method, and a secondary delivery block specifying a second delivery action that specifies a second delivery method, wherein the second delivery method is not the same as the first delivery method; and forwarding the alert that was received to the user according to the delivery mode comprises: transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action; if transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action is successful, preventing the alert that was received from being transmitted to the user according to the second delivery action; and if transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action is unsuccessful, transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the second delivery action.

Point of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SANA AL HASHEMI whose telephone number is (571)272-4013. The examiner can normally be reached on 8Am-4:30Pm.

Art Unit: 2156

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on 571-272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sana Al-Hashemi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2156
November 4, 2011